

Disability Reads For kids with and without disabilities

Picture Books

Abundis, Arlene*. *Into the Mighty Sea*. When Mariel's big familia arrives, their many besos, noises, and colors are overwhelming. Mariel's tears grow into an ocean, and she paints a boat to stay afloat.

Adusei, Denise Rosario and Priscila Soares*. *Cesaria Feels the Beat*. Cesaria's dance director tells her she must wear shoes to dance on stage, but Cesaria hears music through her feet. How can she explain?

Armstrong, Mia*. *I Am A Masterpiece*. Mia likes many things, like going to the beach and drawing. But she doesn't like when strangers stare at her because she looks different from them.

Asbell, Steve*. *Flap Your Hands!* Four neurodivergent kids, who face stressful moments throughout their day, use body movement stims to self-regulate their emotions.

Bernstrom, Daniel*. *Song in the City*. A young blind girl, filled with the sounds of her beloved city, shares its song with her grandmother.

Brown, Khea*. *Sam's Super Seats*. Sam is excited to go shopping with her best friends. She needs to rest a lot because of her cerebral palsy, and luckily there are some great seats to meet!

Catchpole, James*. *You Are So Amazing!* (series). One-legged Joe is "amazing." He knows this because wherever he goes people always tell him he's amazing for sliding down the slide, kicking a ball, just eating an ice cream. Can't he just be Joe?

Catchpole, Lucy*. *Mama Car*. The Mama Car can take mamas and children on adventures, big and small. Even just going to the kitchen for snacks becomes an expedition in mama's wheelchair.

Cotterill, Samantha*. *It was Supposed to be Sunny* (series). Laila feels like her sparkly sunshine birthday celebration is ruined when it storms, there's a cake accident and the plans change. But with the help of her mom and a little alone time with her service dog, she knows she can handle this.

De Lavesa, J*. *Wepa*. Her mom thinks she is too messy; her teachers think she is too loud. But Grandma says that's nonsense—Mia Emilia Lucia Renata simply has too much wepa and helps her find a place where her wepa is celebrated and isn't too much.

Filippone, Nicole*. *Rosalee the Seeker* (series). Rosalee's a little sensory seeker with a BIG heart...except she sometimes does things she doesn't mean to do. A little help to learn how to move her body and organize herself makes a big difference!

Fritsch, Kelly*. *We Move Together*. Fair is everyone getting ice cream; unfair is a step that blocks people in scooters or wheelchairs from getting some. Follow a group of kids as they creatively negotiate everyday barriers and find joy and connection in disability culture and community.

Gooding, Louise*. *Minna's Masks*. Minna uses masks to help her navigate life. When she forgets them at home, she feels overwhelmed. A classmate shows her his mask and Minna realizes she isn't the only person who needs them.

Hammond, Tiffany*. *A Day With No Words*. Some people use their mouths to speak. In this family, they use a tablet that talks instead. How many words do they share on a day when no one uses their mouth?

Harris, Nell*. *My Brain is a Race Car*. Brains are just like cars, they all drive round and round a track, picking up information and then bringing it back. Some brains are race cars that like to drive extra fast. Sometimes though, they forget to stop and fully complete a task.

Hartmann, Amanda. *I Talk in Different Ways*. I wave, I smile, I point... I talk! And I have so many things to say! Explore how a young AAC user communicates and connects with the people in her life.

Hull, Eliza*. *Come Over to My House*. A cast of friendly characters invite friends over for to play, and everyone has at least one disabled family member.

Hunt, Lynda Mullaly. *Wish in a Tree*. Upset by his classmate's derision, neurodivergent Oliver wishes to be more like his peers until his friends help him realize his differences are what make him...him.

Iloh, Candice. *Emeka, Eat Egusi!* Emeka's favorite food is jollof rice. He eats it every day and doesn't want anything different until he helps Mama make egusi and wonders if it could also be good.

Johns, Alison. *Eddie the Elephant Has Something to Say*. Eddie has lots of ideas, but it is so frustrating when his friends don't understand him! So he gets an augmentative and alternative communication device to help him share his ideas more clearly.

*This creator is disabled

continued on back

Learn more: oppl.org/kids-lists

Disability Reads

For kids with and without disabilities

Picture Books, cont'd

Kilgore, Emily*. *The Whatifs*. Cora is constantly worrying, so the Whatifs love her. They sneak up and give her all kinds of doubts: big, small, likely, or impossible. Will she be able to change her worry-filled thoughts into hopeful ones?

Kurpiel, Sarah*. *A Little Like Magic*. Our friend doesn't like itchy hats or cold wind, and especially doesn't like going to new places. But she reluctantly agrees to join her mom at an ice festival, where they watch sculptors chisel until it's too cold...and get a special surprise the next night.

Lazowski, Anna*. *Dark Cloud*. Abigail's dark cloud is always with her. It's a ball of worries following her, a fog in the way of her grand jetés, a shadow that takes away her appetite. How can Abigail find a way to step outside her dark cloud when it's always there?

Malia, Jen*. *Too Sticky!* Holly loves doing experiments and learning new things in science class. But when she finds out the next experiment is making slime with sticky glue, she's worried until she learns how to ask for accommodations!

MacLean, Roz. *More Than Words*. Everyone in class has something to say. Talking isn't the only way to communicate!

Miller-Lachmann, Lyn*. *Ways to Play*. Riley has plenty of ways to play, like lining up dolls by size and shape, tearing up newspapers and making piles, using sharp crayons to draw big swirly patterns. Bossy cousin Emma thinks those ways are wrong, but there's no wrong way to play!

Parker, Lindsey Rowe*. *Wiggles, Stomps, and Squeezes: Calming My Jitters at School* (series). School can be an overwhelming place, and our friend uses all the regulating tools she has to do her best. Run, tap, squeeze!

Plohl, Igor*. *Lucas Makes a Comeback* (series). When Lucas falls, he damages his spine and can't use his legs anymore. After a lot of work, Lucas learns how to drive a car, play sports, and teach again, in his wheelchair.

Rabinowitz, Alan*. *A Boy and a Jaguar*. Alan loves animals, but the zoo's great cat house makes him sad: they're all alone in empty cages. He wants to be their champion and voice, but he stutters. The only time he is fluent is when he's talking with animals. Now he is a cat conservationist!

Reynolds, K.A*. *Big Worry Day*. A little girl is convinced that her dog worries, just like her. With a whole day ahead of them, she prepares snacks, first aid, and even a sword in case of monsters. But when nothing eases their worries, she'll need to get creative.

Rudolph, Shaina and Mary Vukadinovich. *Brilliant Bea*. Bea is a natural storyteller, but struggles to write them. Her teacher helps her use a tape recorder for school and stories.

Shulte, Anitra Rowe. *Dancing with Daddy*. Elsie can't wait to go to her dance. She picked perfect dress, practiced swirling and swaying in her wheelchair, and shared her excitement with her family using augmentative communication. But when a winter storm comes, will the dance go on?

Singh, Tanu Shree. *Ani's Light*. Ani's stuck in a dark cloud because his mother hasn't been home. His friends and family try to brighten his mood, but nothing helps. When Mama finally comes back with her hair missing, Ani's light gets brighter and brighter, chasing away his darkness.

Slice, Jessica* and Caroline Cupp*. *This is How We Play*. A variety of families show that with love and adaptation, we can all play: sitting, rolling, running, wheels, and walkers.

Stoker, Ali*. *Ali and the Sea Stars*. Ali loves to dance, sing, and act. But she had never thought of putting on her own show until her neighbor asks, "Why wait?"

Tatsukawa, Maya. *Mole is Not Alone*. Mole is invited to a party, but what if the party is too rowdy? What if Mole doesn't know anyone there? What if Mole is just too shy to make friends? But what if parties are not the only way to make friends?

Verde, Susan. *Unstoppable Me*. Let's play with this unstoppable little boy, as he runs, jumps, and soars through his day. He takes a little time to refuel, then he's back at it—zooming and zipping around.

Webb, Amy and Grace. *Emma's Awesome Summer Camp Adventure*. Emma is so excited for camp! It's an accessible camp, which means that she and her new disabled friends can participate in anything.

Windness, Kaz*. *Bitsy Bat, Team Star* (series). Bitsy Bat is an autistic star student and the only fantastic flier at Crittercrawl Elementary...until a new nonspeaking student named Enzo Owl arrives and outflies her during recess. Is she still a star?

*This creator is disabled

Disability Reads

For kids with and without disabilities

Fiction

Bow, Sarah*. *Simon Sort of Says*. Simon's biggest claim to fame should be the time his dad accidentally gave a squirrel a holy sacrament. Or the viral alpaca disaster. But the only story the world wants is the one he'd do anything to forget.

Bowling, Dusti. *Aven Green, Sleuthing Machine* (Early Chapter series). Third-grader Aven has been solving mysteries for a whole month, but can she solve two cases at the same time?

Carmichael, Jodi*. *The U-nique Lou Fox*. Louisa, a fifth grader who has ADHD and dyslexia, wishes her overly tough teacher would disappear—then fears she has unleashed a curse when Mrs. Snyder becomes ill.

Carter, Caela*. *Fifty-Four Things Wrong With Gwendolyn Rogers*. Gwendolyn knows she doesn't have just one thing wrong with her, she has fifty-four, according to a confidential school report. She needs a plan to get them under control so she can go to horse camp this summer.

Choldenko, Gennifer. *Al Capone Does My Shirts* (series). Moose moves with his family to Alcatraz so his dad can work as a guard and his autistic sister, Natalie, can attend a special school. All he wants is stay out of trouble. But on Alcatraz, trouble is never far away.

Colman, Alyssa*. *Where Only Storms Grow*. Saving their farm from the bank and Dust Bowl fall to twins Howe and Joanna when Daddy goes to find work in California, but Howe hates the farm and Joanna's untreated scoliosis and constant pain means she can't help out the way she wants.

Davis, Tanita S*. *Figure it Out, Henri Weldon*. Henri attended a school for her dyscalculia, but when she moves to public school, she finds herself struggling to balance other parts of her life, and not just in math class.

Edge, Clare*. *Accidental Demons*. A spell and a quick prick of the finger, and a witch like Ber could summon a demon to do anything she needed—until she was diagnosed with diabetes. Now when she tests her blood sugar, accidental demons slip into the human dimension and cause chaos.

Erb, Calyssa*. *Maya Plays the Part*. When Maya doesn't get the lead in The Drowsy Chaperone like she planned, the extra stress beyond problems with her best friend, parents, and—since her autism diagnosis—the ongoing puzzle of how to be Maya in Public is overwhelming.

Fischer, Debbie Reed. *This is Not the Abby Show*. Abby is gifted and has ADHD. She usually has everything pretty much under control. But when she makes one HUGE mistake that leads to "The Night That Ruined My Life," she lands in summer school and discovers stand up comedy.

Gerber, Alyson*. *Focused*. Clea gets distracted by noise and by her own brain. When she finds out that she has ADHD, her therapist helps her understand that she isn't broken. But will her mom ever understand that?

Harrell, Rob*. *Popcorn*. Andrew's just trying to make it through Picture Day, but as one thing after another goes wrong, the little kernel of worry in his stomach is getting hotter and hotter until it threatens to pop and turn into a public panic attack, his worst fear.

Kapit, Sarah*. *The Many Mysteries of the Finkel Family*. Lara is excited to start her own detective agency, but the only mysteries are her family's odd behaviors. She discovers their secrets, and wishes she hadn't.

Kelly, Lynne. *Song for a Whale*. Twelve-year-old Iris is a tech genius, but because she's deaf, people treat her like she's not smart. When she learns about a whale unable to speak to other whales, she decides to invent a way to "sing" to him, and must travel 3,000 miles to do it.

Kuyatt, Meg Eden*. *Good Different*. Selah always sticks to her rules for being normal and keeps her feelings locked tightly inside despite the way they build up inside her. She comes to understand that different doesn't mean damaged, but can her school understand that, too?

McNicoll, Elle*. *Like a Charm*. As she is pulled into her family's world of secrets and spells, Ramya sets out to discover the truth behind the Hidden Folk with only three words of warning: Beware the Sirens.

Mendez, Jasminne*. *Aniana Del Mar Jumps In*. Aniana belongs in the water. Her doctor believes that swimming and medication will help Ani manage her Juvenile Arthritis, but Mama disagrees. Ani must grieve who she was to become the person she is meant to be.

Netz, Mo*. *The Lumbering Giants of Windy Pines*. Armed with a Ren Faire sword and a backpack, Jerry and her friends venture into the forbidden woods to save her mother. But the 'demons' hiding there aren't what they seem...

O'Donnell, Liam. *The Case of the Snack Snatcher* (Early Chapter series). Myron is a third-grade detective, so when the kitchen at school is burgled, the morning snacks gone, he is on the case.

continued on back

Disability Reads For kids with and without disabilities

Fiction, con't

Riley, Ronnie*. *Jude Saves the World*. ADHD Jude is trying to figure out how to tell their old-fashioned grandparents about being nonbinary, and help their friends with their own problems.

Sass, AJ*. *Ellen Outside the Lines*. Ellen navigates a new city, shifting friendships, a growing crush, and her autistic, queer, and Jewish identities while on a class trip to Barcelona, Spain.

Seabolt, Tricia. *Ellie and the Marriage List* (Early Chapter). Ellie is excited to hang out with her big brother this summer, but he only care about impressing new lip-glossy neighbor, Sara. Can Ellie win back her brother and save her summer?

Stroker, Ali* and Stacy Davidowitz. *The Chance to Fly* (series). Nat makes ensemble in a kids' production of *Wicked* with a super cool and inclusive cast. When things go awry a week before opening night, will Nat be able to "Defy Gravity?"

Ursu, Anne. *Not Quite a Ghost*. Violet moves into her new attic bedroom with its old yellow wallpaper, falls ill, and does not get better. Then the shadows come. Is she alone in the attic?

Winans, Justine P*. *A Little Too Haunted*. The only thing worse than having ghost hunters for parents is having fake ghost hunters for parents. But this new house feels different. And very dangerous.

Winston, Sherri. *Wednesday and Woof* (Paperback series). Wednesday and her service dog, Woof, are the best detectives in their neighborhood. But can they find Mrs. Winters's missing cat before her trip?

Graphic Novels

Agarwal, Veronica* and Lee Durfey-Lavoie*. *Just Roll with It*. Maggie wants to get through her first year of middle school, and tough times call for help from her twenty-sided dice. But what if she rolls the wrong number?

Bell, Cece*. *El Deafo*. Everyone in Cece's last class was deaf, but here she is different. Can Cece channel her super phonic powers into finding a friend?

Burgess, Rebecca*. *Speak Up*. To the kids at school, Mia is the autistic girl who can't speak up. To her mom, she's the fragile daughter who needs help fitting in. But to thousands of fans online, Mia is a talented singer known by her secret identity.

Fung, Rosena*. *Living with Viola*. Livy is already having trouble fitting in—and then there's Viola: her anxiety brought to life. Livy tries to push back against Viola's relentless judgement, but nothing seems to work until she strikes up new friendships.

Garcia, Kami*. *Mixed-Up*. Stella knows fifth grade will be the best, but then she struggles in school, can't read a new fandom guidebook, and doesn't know how to tell her friends.

Larson, Hope*. *Very Bad at Math*. School president Verity is the best at everything, except math just doesn't make sense. But it's the only thing between her and honoring her campaign promises.

Zayid, Maysoon*. *Shiny Misfits*. Bay Ann is sure her tap dance will shine at the school talent show, but when her crush catches her before she falls (his fault) and gets all the "fame" she is determined to beat him at his own attention-seeking game.

Nonfiction

Balfe, Abigail*. *A Different Kind of Normal*. (618.928 BAL)

Burcaw, Shane*. *Not So Different: What You Really Want to Ask About Having a Disability*. (362.43 BUR)

Burnell, Cerrie*. *I Am Not a Label*. (305.908 BUR)

Cisneros Prevo, Patty*. *Tenacious*. (796.045 CIS)

Cocca-Leffler, Maryann and Janine Leffler*. *We Want to Go to School!* (344.079 COC)

Fuente-Lau, Shuli de la. *How We Eat: Celebrating Food and Feeding Tools*. (394.12 FUE; also Board Books F)

Goodling, Louise*. *Wonderfully Wired Brains*. (612.82 GOO)

Lacika, Jenny*. *Talking Books: Audiobook Inventor Dr. Robert B. Irwin and a New Way to Read*. (Scientists B Irwin)

Montalván, Luis Carlos*. *Tuesday Tucks Me In*. (636.7 MON)

Napper, Kristine*. *A Kids Book About: Disabilities*. (305.908 NAP)

O'Toole, Jennifer Cook*. *The Asperkid's Secret Book of Social Rules*. (618.928 OTO) (Note: Asperger's is no longer a recognized diagnosis; it's part of the autism spectrum.)

Owning It: Our Disabled Childhoods in Our Own Words. (362.4 OWN)

Understanding Disability (series) (362.4)

Whaley, Ashley Harris. *I Am, You Are*. (305.908 WHA)

Wolfe, Helen*. *Unstoppable: Women with Disabilities*. (362.4 WOL)

*This creator is disabled.

Learn more: oppl.org/kids-lists